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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
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SUBJECT: "An Old Shoe Talks" - information from Extension clothing specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture

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You may have used the saying - "Talking through his hat" - but did you ever hear of anyone "talking through his shoes?" Likely not. And yet...if you'll look at a pair of old shoes...you'll notice they have a lot to say about their owner. Not in words...of course...but in the way they're shaped and worn.

For example...you see a pair of brown moccasins. The counters are mashed way down in back...and they no longer fit the heel at all. They tell the story of a bobby-soxer in too much of a hurry to put her shoes on...as she dashes off to join her friends. Then there's the small boy's oxfords...worn down at the heel and bursting the seams at the toe. You get a picture of an active lad whose feet grow faster than ration stamps come due...or who may have shoes that were not large enough when he bought them.

Yes....old shoes have a story to tell. And it will pay you to take a note or two from your child's worn shoes when you get ready to buy school shoes this fall. That's the advice of the clothing specialist of the California Agricultural Extension Service.

Check to see if the shoes were short-lived because they were too small when they were purchased. A child's shoe should be an inch longer than his foot. Check to see if the heels and counters fit snugly...if the arches give support. The specialist says oxfords give best support for growing feet. Check the old shoes to see if they would have given better wear if they'd received better care. If they had been kept dry...clean and mended.

Let the story of an old shoe be a lesson that helps you buy sensible, sturdy, well-fitted shoes for the youngsters in your family, this fall. Even though the prospect is good that more shoes will be available during coming months...they won't be on the shelves tomorrow. And your cue is to buy shoes that with good care will give good wear.

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